

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 06496

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 JULY 1977

REF: (A) USNATO 6303 (DTG 011155Z JUL 77), (B) STATE
155172 (DTG 021917Z JUL 77), (C) USNATO 5071 (DTG 100957Z
JUN 77)

SUMMARY: IN ITS 5 JULY MEETING THE DEFENSE REVIEW COM-
MITTEE (DRC) DISCUSSED (A) THE 1978 DEFENSE PLANNING
SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP, (B) THE ANNUAL DEFENSE REVIEW,
AND (C) RESOURCE GUIDANCE. ALLIES AGREED THAT THE 1978
DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM WOULD FOCUS ON THE LONG-TERM
DEFENSE PROGRAM AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
AGENDA (REF A). CHAIRMAN AGREED TO CONSIDER US PROPOSAL
TO EXTEND THE SYMPOSIUM AND SUGGESTED THAT THE WORK OF
THE RATIONALIZATION TASK FORCE WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE
SUBJECT FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, NO SUPPORT
EMERGED FOR RESCHEDULING THE WORKSHOP. CHAIRMAN URGED
NATIONS TO SUBMIT THEIR
RESPONSES TO THE 1977 DEFENSE
PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ) BY THE 31 JULY DEADLINE,
BUT A NUMBER OF ALLIES INDICATED THAT THE FINANCIAL AND
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ECONOMIC SECTIONS OF THEIR REPLIES AS DELAYED.
SHAPE REP STATED THAT SHAPE IS IN DIRE NEED OF NATIONAL
RESOURCE PROJECTIONS NO LATER THAN 1 AUGUST TO ENABLE
PROCESSING OF 1979-1984 FORCE PROPOSALS. CHAIRMAN URGED
ALLIES TO PROVIDE THESE FORWARD FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS
AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE. ACTION REQUESTED:
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 15 JULY ON (A) THE SUITABILITY

OF RATIONALIZATION AS THE TOPIC FOR THE FOURTH DAY OF SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSIONS, AND (B) RESCHEDULING OF THE WORKSHOP. END SUMMARY.

1. 1978 DEFENSE PLANNING SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP (REF A). CHAIRMAN (ASYG MUMFORD) OPENED DISCUSSION, STATING THAT HE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP BE SCHEDULED CONSECUTIVELY IN OBERAMMERGAU TO (A) EASE THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND (B) FACILITATE ATTENDANCE BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT BOTH SESSIONS. MUMFORD SAID THAT HE HAD RAISED INFORMALLY IN SEVERAL CAPITALS THE IDEA OF FOCUSING THE 1978 SYMPOSIUM ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND HAD RECEIVED A POSITIVE RESPONSE, NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR KOMER HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO KEYNOTE THE CONFERENCE AND THAT THE UK ALSO WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE A VERY SENIOR SPEAKER. US REP (BADER) STATED THAT WASHINGTON AGREED STRONGLY WITH THE PROPOSED FOCUS ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM AND CONFIRMED THAT AMBASSADOR KOMER WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE SYMPOSIUM. SACLANT REP (CDRE COTTE) EXPRESSED HIS AUTHORITIES PLEASURE WITH THE PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM APPROACH AND STATED THAT BOTH SACLANT AND CINCHAN WOULD BE WILLING TO ADDRESS THE CONFERENCE. DRAWING ON REF B, US REP SUGGESTED THAT (A) IN DEFERENCE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SYMPOSIUM TOPIC, THE CONFERENCE BE EXTENDED BY AT LEAST ONE DAY, WITH THIS ADDITIONAL DAY DEVOTED TO DIS-

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CUSSION OF STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY AND (B) TO MAKE TIME AVAILABLE FOR THIS EXTENSION AND TO AVOID DILUTING SYMPOSIUM ATTENDANCE, THE WORKSHOP BE SCHEDULED AT ANOTHER TIME. US REP ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD APPRECIATE SONTW FCATION OF THE PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM COVERAGE FOR THE THIRD DAY. MUMFORD: (A) RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER EXTENDING THE SYMPOSIUM A FOURTH DAY, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE BROADER TOPIC OF RATIONALIZATION (ENCOMPASSING STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY) MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE; (B) ARGUED THAT ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCHEDULING PROBLEMS MILITATE AGAINST SEPARATING FURTHER IN TIME THE SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP; AND (C) SAID THE PROPOSED THIRD DAY OF THE SYMPOSIUM IS DESIGNED TO SOLICIT NATIONAL VIEWS ON THE SPECIFIC IMPACT THAT THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM HAS HAD ON THEIR DEFENSE PLANNING. ALL ALLIED REPS WHO SPOKE EXPRESSED THEIR AUTHORITIES' AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSED APPROACH TO THE SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP, AND NO SUPPORT WAS SHOWN FOR SEPARATING THE TWO. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM AND PROPOSE TO SUGGEST TO MUMFORD, SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE, THAT THE CONFERENCE COMMENCE ON TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY, RATHER THAN

WEDNESDAY, THUS PROVIDING A FULL FOUR DAYS. IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF ALLIED SUPPORT FOR SEPARATING THE TWO CONFERENCES AND THE HEAVY SPRING WORKLOAD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FRUITFUL TO CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR A SEPARATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP. END COMMENT.

2. ANNUAL DEFENSE REVIEW: 1977 DEFENSE PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE (DPQ). COMMENTING ON THE HEAVY FALL WORKLOAD AND TIME CONSTRAINTS AND THE CONSEQUENT NEED TO MOVE OUT QUICKLY ON THE ANNUAL DEFENSE REVIEW, MUMFORD URGED ALLIES TO PROVIDE THEIR DPQ REPLIES AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

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AND ASKED DRC REPS TO INDICATE WHEN THEIR NATIONS' REPLIES COULD BE EXPECTED. CANADA, NORWAY AND THE UK INDICATED THAT THEIR COMPLETE REPLIES WOULD BE PROVIDED ON TIME. BELGIUM, DENMARK, ITALY AND GERMANY STATED THAT THEIR FORCE SECTIONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY EARLY AUGUST, BUT THAT THEIR FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SECTIONS PROBABLY WOULD BE DELAYED. US REP STATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES APPRECIATE THE DESIRABILITY OF PROMPT SUBMISSION OF DPQ REPLIES, COMMENTED THAT THE US DPQ REPLY IS A DECISION DOCUMENT WHICH REQUIRES APPROVAL AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, AND SAID THAT WASHINGTON WOULD DO ITS BEST TO PROVIDE A PROMPT RESPONSE. COMMENTING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE US DPQ TO THE ALLIANCE, BECAUSE OF THE US MAJOR CONTRIBUTION AND CLOSE INTERACTION WITH OTHER ALLIED FORCES, MUMFORD URGED US AUTHORITIES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET THE 1977 DPQ REPLY IN ON TIME. TURKISH REP (TOPUR) STATED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD DO ITS BEST TO PRESS ANKARA FOR AN

EARLY RESPONSE, BUT DUE TO THE UNSETTLED POLITICAL SITUATION FOLLOWING THE JUNE ELECTIONS AND THE ANNUAL RESHUFFLING OF SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN JULY, HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC. DUTCH AND PORTUGUESE REPS WERE NOT PRESENT.

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3. RESOURCE GUIDANCE FOR 1979-84 FORCE PROPOSALS. REFERRING TO HIS LETTER OF 2 JUNE (REF C) REQUESTING DATA ON PROJECTED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES, MUMFORD STATED THAT ONLY SIX NATIONS HAD REPLIED (BELGIUM, DENMARK, ITALY, NORWAY, UK AND US), AND THAT IN MOST CASES THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED WAS QUITE LIMITED. MUMFORD COMMENTED ON THE URGENCY OF PROVIDING THE REQUESTED DATA SO AS TO INFLUENCE THE PREPARATION OF FORCE PROPOSALS BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS. SHAPE REP (BGEN SCHWEITZER) ADDED THAT SHAPE IS IN DIRE NEED OF NATIONAL RESOURCE PROJECTIONS, AND FAILURE TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION BY 1 AUGUST COULD (A) DELAY SHAPE'S FORWARDING OF 1979-84 FORCE PROPOSALS TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE BEYOND THE 1 NOVEMBER DEADLINE AND (B) ADVERSELY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS PACKAGE. IN RESPONSE TO UK REP'S (PETERS) QUERY, MUMFORD STATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF DID NOT PLAN TO DISCUSS RESOURCE PLANNING GUIDELINES WITH INDIVIDUAL NATIONS BUT RATHER PLANNED TO PROVIDE SUCH ADVICE TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES "IN PRIVATE."

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY 15 JULY ON (A) THE SUITABILITY OF RATIONALIZATION AS THE TOPIC FOR THE FOURTH DAY OF SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSIONS, AND (B) RESCHEDULING OF THE WORKSHOP. BENNETT

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